

**DSS ADMINISTRATIVE LETTER NO. ECONOMIC SERVICES 7-2004, Hurricane Ivan Food Stamp Certification Period Extensions (October 6, 2004)**

**(Food Stamps)**

**TO:** County Directors

**ATTENTION:** Food Stamp Supervisors

**SUBJECT:** Hurricane Ivan Food Stamp Certification Period Extensions

**DATE:** October 6, 2004

**I. GENERAL INFORMATION**

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has approved several waivers to the regular Food Stamp Program for 16 North Carolina counties which were presidentially declared disaster areas as a result of damage caused by Hurricane Ivan.

The information contained in this letter clarifies the procedures for extending certification periods in the seven counties which requested certification period extensions. The counties are as follows: **Avery, Buncombe, Haywood, Henderson, Jackson, Macon and McDowell.**

**II. PROCEDURES**

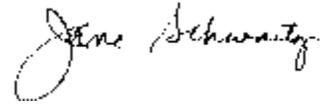
**A.** The Food Stamp Information System (FSIS) extended certification periods through October 2004 for all households with certification periods ending September 2004, in the seven counties referenced above. These households will receive the same benefit amount as their initial September allotment, plus any added benefits resulting from the October 2004 mass change.

**B.** Enter a new six or twelve month certification period, as appropriate, in Field 10 of the DSS-8590 for eligible cases with extended certification periods. Key November 2004 in the "certification from" date and "start issuance" date on the DSS-8590. Refer to NCXPTR, Report Name DHRSLA DIS IV0904 CERT THRU EXT for a list of cases with extended certification periods.

**C.** Use recertification forms and information previously provided and/or verified to determine eligibility. It is not necessary to request new wage information, etc. to determine eligibility.

If you have any questions, please contact your Food Assistance and Energy Programs Representative.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jane Schwartz". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Jane Schwartz, Chief

Economic Services Section

JS/dl